

Planning Zoning and Housing Committee
Of the RTM

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: March 7, 2006

Place: Employee Lounge Town Hall

Present: Bayne, Fingar, Grimes, Magida, Normile, Rycenga, Sheehan, Sickinger, Stark, van der Kieft, Young

Absent: Conologue

Regular Meeting of the Planning Zoning and Housing Committee of the RTM.

Meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM.

Minutes of 2-21-06 were submitted and approved.

Allen O'Neill Redevelopment Plan

John Boulton, Chairman of the Board of Education, presented information regarding projected school enrollment vis-à-vis Allen O'Neill proposed redevelopment. The Bore expects 1 student per unit x 40 new units = 40 new students enrolled K-12. The Darien school system does not expect peak enrollment until year 2010. Aside from the obvious increase in per student cost – no anticipated capital expenditures in terms of extra classrooms or building renovation. Mr. Boulton based his projections on current experience with the Avalon project.

Anne Lynn, Chairman of the Darien Housing Commission was also in attendance to answer questions.

At this time no vote was taken as to the DHA's funding request as it is currently not scheduled for an RTM vote.

The Chairman of PZ&H will recommend to the Rules Committee that Anne Lynn be invited to present at the next regularly scheduled RTM Meeting on March 20.

Consideration of Boats and Harbors Ordinance and Charter Change

It was agreed that PZ&H doesn't really have any jurisdiction in this matter as these points pertain to high water therefore falls within the jurisdiction of the Harbor Commission and the Board of Selectmen. Cheryl Russell, Chairman of the Parks and Rec Committee was in attendance to explain history and answer questions.

\$110,000 Appropriation for Planning and Zoning Legal Fees

During the budget process for 05-06 fiscal year, Planning and Zoning asked for \$168,000 to cover department legal fees; \$140,000 was budgeted. As of today, the department has already spent the budgeted amount due to various legal proceedings. Planning and Zoning wholly expects that there will be at least \$110,000 in additional fees and costs before the fiscal year ends.

Discussion ensued regarding such costs. Many continue to feel that the Department needs to enforce the ordinance approved by the RTM last year to allow for builders to provide funds in escrow with the department.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the appropriation of \$110,000 from the Contingency Fund to support certain expected legal fees within the Planning and Zoning Department prior to the end of the 05-06 fiscal year.

The motion received a unanimous vote in favor of this action; 11 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tamsin Sickinger
Clerk